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# The Elba Clipper

Volume 106, Number 25

50 Cents

Elba, Alabama

Thursday, December 5, 2002

1 Section, 14 Pages Plus 2 Adv. Inserts

## Annual Christmas parade fills streets of Elba



The City of Elba welcomed the holiday season last Saturday, Nov. 30, with its annual Christmas Festival activities, and as usual, the Christmas parade proved to be a delightful part of the day. The streets were filled with holiday cheer as the lighted floats and smiling participants made their way through town in what was considered to be one of the largest Christmas parades Elba has ever produced with nearly 70 entries. The attractions varied from floats and vehicles to marching bands and horses. There were even sightings of a clown and go-carts zooming through town. As shown above, the City of Elba float was very appealing with its holiday decorations and the appearance of the city's beauty queens. The queens include Miss Elba Shay Johnson, Junior Miss Elba Lyndsay Lawford, Little Miss Elba Britley Williams and Future Little Miss Elba Sarah Bryan. To enjoy other sights from the annual Christmas Festival and Parade, please see page nine.

## Alabama DOT plans new Hwy. 84 design hearing

The Alabama Department of Transportation (DOT) recently announced its plans to hold a new design public hearing for the first time in quite some time concerning the four-laning of U.S. Highway 84.

The hearing is scheduled for Tuesday, Dec. 10, between the hours of 5-7 p.m. at the New Brockton Farm Center and will concern additional lanes for U.S. Hwy. 84 from Alabama State Road 87 in Elba to Coffee

County Road 507 in New Brockton.

DOT officials have said a formal presentation will not be made; therefore, interested citizens can schedule their attendance at their convenience during the announced hours for the hearing.

During the meeting, citizens will be provided project information by viewing visual displays and through informal discussions with the DOT officials

on hand. The meeting will also serve as an opportunity for citizens to express any comments about the project through the informal discussions or in writing by acquiring one of the comment forms that will be made available during the hearing.

Persons with disabilities who may need special assistance should contact the Alabama Department of Transportation's Division Office at (334) 670-2452.

## New Brockton Council receives water board update

by Linda Hodge, Editor

New Brockton Mayor Charles Cole presented crucial news from the town's water board to council members Monday evening, Dec. 2, during the regular monthly meeting of the council.

Cole said Enterprise is buying out the Clintonville Tabernacle Water Authority, and the Town of New Brockton has a "good faith" agreement with Enterprise that it will continue to buy water from the town for 10 years up to \$3,200.

He said New Brockton would have liked to buy the water authority especially since the town invested in a water well to supply the area; however, that was not the case, and the town will now have to depend on the good faith agreement.

Once Enterprise decides they don't want to buy water from us, we have a water well we don't need," Cole said. "Some where along the line we are going to have no choice but to increase the water rates."

He added that the water board signed the good faith agreement with Enterprise on the advice of its attorney.

Cole said the water board will discuss water rates at its next working session which will be Monday evening, Dec. 16.

With the Christmas holiday approaching, Cole requesting a one-time pay raise for town employees.

In his request, the mayor asked

that the full time employees receive \$50 and the part time employees receive \$25.

Council member Ron McMonagle provided a motion to that effect; however, he stressed that the \$50 and \$25 be what the employees receives after any taxes have been deducted. Therefore, the motion called for a one time pay raise of \$50 for full time and \$25 for part time plus whatever the tax amount will be for each.

Council member Johnnie Herron provided the second to the motion which passed by a unanimous vote.

In regards to other department updates, Cole announced that the police department will have a lit-

tle overtime now since the department only has three full time employees with four part time employees. He said the chief has promised to keep the overtime as limited as possible.

Council member Jody Stuckey announced that the recreation board has passed out sign up sheets for youth basketball, and the season should begin after the first of the year.

In regards to upcoming holidays, Cole announced the New Brockton Town Hall will be closed in observance of the Christmas holidays on Dec. 24 and 25 and will be closed in observance of the New Year's Day holiday on Dec. 31 and Jan. 1.

## Area Happenings

**THE TOWN OF NEW BROCKTON** will celebrate "Christmas Around Town" with its second annual Christmas Parade on Saturday, Dec. 7, beginning at 4:30 p.m.

**THE COFFEE COUNTY COMMISSION** will hold its regular bi-monthly meeting Monday, Dec. 9, at 9 a.m. in the community room at the county complex in New Brockton.

**U.S. DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE'S FARM SERVICE AGENCY** has announced that sign-up for the Livestock Compensation Program (LCP) for cattle, sheep, goats, and buffalo producers will end on Friday, Dec. 13. The LCP is now available to livestock producers in all 67 counties. Eligible livestock producers should apply for LCP benefits at the local Farm Service Agency (FSA) office by the deadline date.

**THE ELBA DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION** and the Human Resource Development Commission are in need of new and used toys, clothes and other items that will be used as gifts for needy families in the 2002 Operation Santa Claus campaign. Families in Elba and the surrounding area have registered at the two agencies, and items are requested that would help make this Christmas a Merry Christmas for the less fortunate in the area. The public is encouraged to donate items that are still in working condition, or can be repaired for a minimal cost or clothes that are in good condition. Contributions should be made to Operation Santa Claus and mailed to the Elba Department of Parks and Recreation, 200 Bedford Street, Elba, Alabama 36525. For items that need pick up call 697-4433.

## \*NOTICE\*

It is hereby notified that the Elba Department of Parks and Recreation is in need of new and used toys, clothes and other items that will be used as gifts for needy families in the 2002 Operation Santa Claus campaign. Families in Elba and the surrounding area have registered at the two agencies, and items are requested that would help make this Christmas a Merry Christmas for the less fortunate in the area. The public is encouraged to donate items that are still in working condition, or can be repaired for a minimal cost or clothes that are in good condition. Contributions should be made to Operation Santa Claus and mailed to the Elba Department of Parks and Recreation, 200 Bedford Street, Elba, Alabama 36525. For items that need pick up call 697-4433.

## County Commission agrees to acquire automated fingerprinting equipment

by Linda Hodge, Editor

The Coffee County Commission voted Monday, Nov. 25, to allow the Coffee County Jail to acquire an automated fingerprinting machine if it was awarded through a grant in 2001.

Coffee County Sheriff Ben Moates addressed the commission concerning this machine and said the Coffee County Jail was one of 30 selected in 2001 to receive the automated fingerprinting machine; however, the county had elected not to acquire the machine before now due to the cost of a yearly maintenance contract.

Moates said he learned recently that Coffee County is still online to receive the final machine left and a decision needed to be made.

When the machine was first awarded to Coffee County, the agreement called for the county to assume the \$4370 per year maintenance contract on it; however, Moates said the state has now agreed to maintain the machine for the first two years.

Therefore, he asked the commission to approve the acceptance of the machine with the understanding that in two years the county will assume the maintenance contract.

Before voting on the acceptance of the machine, Commissioner Tom Grimsley asked Moates why the upkeep on the machine is so high, and the sheriff said the only thing he knew to say was that the machine is very high tech.

As the conversation continued, Commissioner Linda Westbrook said it sounded as if the county needs more information on the life expectancy of the machine as well as other details, and Commissioner Bernest Brooks responded by saying the county has two years to plan for this expense in the budget.

Moates also stressed that he was asking the commission to sign a memorandum of understanding, not a contract, to receive the machine, and the memorandum of understanding provides an option for the county to "dissolve the agreement" will 30 days notice if it finds a reason necessary.

The motion to sign the memorandum of understanding and accept the machine was provided by Brooks with Commissioner Kayo Lewis offering a second to the motion. It passed by a unanimous vote.

Dr. James Paulk, chairman of the Coffee County Water Authority, addressed the commission with an update on the authority's progress.

He said the authority had found a bit of trouble with its original contractor; however, the completion contracts had just been signed with the new contractor.

Paulk said the new contractor is going to complete the contract as it was originally written which means the project is scheduled to be finished by March 31, 2003.

"This is good news, and we're all happy as can be that we're going to get this project complete," he said.

Also, Paulk said the authority has approached some of the other water systems within the county about joining the Coffee County Water System, and he said the authority is hopeful to acquire some of those systems in the future.

In regards to water systems, the commission provided its permission for the sale of the Tabernacle Clintonville Water Authority to the Enterprise Water Works Board during the Monday morning meeting.

Rainer Cotter, attorney for the Water Works Board, and Jeff Kelley, attorney for the Tabernacle Clintonville Water Authority, addressed the commission together to ask for approval of the sale, and Kelley said he feels all authorities involved will benefit from this sale.

Since the authority is in his district, Commissioner Lewis said he would offer the motion for permission to sell. He received a second from Commissioner Jim Thompson, and the motion passed by a unanimous vote.

Ann Jones, a representative for the Color Blind Children of Coffee County organization, spoke to commissioners concerning the use of the farm center for an upcoming fashion and talent show.

Jones said the program is designed to help less fortunate children and elderly people at Christmas. She said participants will be asked to bring toys for the children and other items for the elderly which will be dispersed to those in need before Christmas.

"We want to be a blessing to those who may not have anything for Christmas," she said.

The event is scheduled for Saturday, Dec. 21, at 5:30 p.m., and Commissioner Chairman Robert Stephens said the commission had already provided its approval for the use of the farm center.

In other business, the commission:

Approved an agreement with Justice Benefits Inc. to seek federal funding for the housing of illegal immigrants at the Coffee County Jail. County administrator Wilson Mobley said the federal government will pay for housing of these immigrants if the stay time is more than 72 hours, and Justice Benefits Inc. is a company that specializes in discovering if an immigrant is illegal. The company's fee will be 22 percent of what the federal government pays the county, and Sheriff Moates said he sees nothing but a win-win situation with this program.

Received an update on the tax collection in Coffee County in which Mobley said the revenue commissioner's office is running about two months behind with its collection process. However, he said the collection process is scheduled to begin sometime after Dec. 1st.

Upon the request of Commissioner Westbrook, approved the renewal of the lease agreements for the voting houses in Pine Level, Basin, Lee community and Danley's Crossroads.

Approved a motion by Commissioner Lewis to put in wheel chair ramps at the Coffee County Farm Center with the county maintenance department doing the work. Stephens said he will ask the maintenance supervisor to draw up the plans to the work and bring this before the commission to be approved before any work is done.

## Elba holds annual All-Star Lighting Ceremony

by Linda Hodge, Editor

The citizens of Elba gathered on the courthouse square last Saturday evening, Nov. 30, for the annual Elba All-Star Lighting Ceremony to recognize some of their own who symbolize the small town, big heart the city.

The ceremony serves as the closing event of the annual Christmas Festival and once again proved to be a cherished moment as 10 Elba citizens were honored for their commitment and love for the community.

Greg Hanchey served as master of ceremony for the event, and he opened by asking everyone in attendance to remember one of Elba's landmarks that has been removed to further the safety of the town, the crooked bridge. At the same time, Elba Mayor James Grimes lit the first candle for the event.

The 2002 all-stars were then introduced and a brief summary of why they were nominated as an all-star was presented. The all-stars honored during the event included: Ralph Bradley, Ellen Briley, Charlotte Clark, Fernin and Heddy Cox, Dr. Lance K. Dyer, Eddie Kelley, Lisa Grimes, Denise Saults and Sara Sharpless.

After being introduced, the all-stars made their way through the audience and helped brighten the evening by lighting the candles being held by those in attendance.

"May the spirit of the season and the love for this town bring

you joy during the coming days," Hanchey said once all the candles had been lit.

At that point, the Ino Baptist Church Shine Team completed the program by presenting its skit, "Twas the Night Before Jesus."



Members of the Ino Baptist Church Shine Team closed out the 15th Annual Elba Christmas Festival last Saturday, Nov. 30, with a holiday skit. The group performed "Twas the Night Before Jesus" during the annual Elba All-Star Lighting Ceremony which ends the festivities each year, and it proved to be a fitting end to a great day as the City of Elba welcomed the Christmas season to town.



## EDITORIAL

BRAINSTORMS  
With Ferrin Cox

Last week our comments on the highway public hearing were a bit misleading . . . that means they were wrong. While the map and the description refer to Highway 87 (Samson Highway), Division Engineer Ronnie Baldwin explained this week that the 4-lane highway will actually turn off the existing U. S. 84 just east of Brunsen Trailer Park, as announced earlier. The route across Pea River to join the Western part of the 4-lane is still unsettled due to paperwork with FEMA on several flood buy-out properties in Riverview, but it will still go along a Northern route, Baldwin said. Anyway, the hearing on the section out to the Shiloh area will be on Tuesday, December 10th and interested persons can get the straight skinny by attending the 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. informal meeting at the New Brockton Farm Center.

While our mind is on highways, jump with us to Highway 331, which runs from Montgomery to the Florida line at Florida. It is in the process of becoming a 4-lane highway also. Recent rumors have the highway leaving Brantley down Highway 141 to Curtis and then on to Opp on the new U. S. 84 4-lane. Our above named authority, Ronnie Baldwin, puts a halt to that rumor with a strong statement that "Our plans are for Highway 331 to go from Brantley to Opp as it does today." He added that there is absolutely no discussion of changing the route to come down 141 to Curtis.

State Representative Alvin Holmes isn't going to let the new governor off any lighter than he has previous sitting heads of state. This week he reportedly issued an ultimatum to the new administration dealing with the fact that Bob Riley will take office on the Martin L. King holiday. Mr. Holmes wants a civil rights float in the parade and time to honor a couple of civil rights icons. We don't know who says yes or no on floats, but we would say "come on down," knowing it would be tastefully done. As far as the three minutes of speaking, we would ignore that. This particular celebration is political. While great leaders should always be remembered and saluted, they need their own special gatherings to honor their good works . . . not three minutes tacked on as afterthoughts.

## LATE DEATH NOTICE

D. W. Cordle

D.W. Cordle, age 92 of Elba, Ala. died December 2, 2002 in the Elba Nursing Home. Funeral services will be held Thursday, December 5, 2002 at 2:00 p.m. with Rev. Cecil Cordle and Rev. David Sims officiating. The burial will follow in the Old Tabernacle Church Cemetery, New Brockton, Ala. The visitation

was held Wednesday, December 4, 2002 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Hayes Funeral Home. Survivors include son, Hinton Cordle, Jack, Ala.; daughter, Vonelle Hicks, Seale, Ala.; brother, Robert Cordle, Defuniak Springs, Fla.; 11 grandchildren, 18 great grandchildren, and three great great grandchildren.

## ELBA GENERAL HOSPITAL REPORT

Elba General Hospital had the following patients admitted during the time period of November 25, 2002, through December 1, 2002. They were: James Marshall, Linda Ayers, Rosa Tyson, Jimmie Duncan, Ellis Eddins, Carolyn Lawrence, Michael Fuller, Rita Sondergard, Mattie Graham, Dewese Falls, Betty Spurlin, Edith Calhoun, Annie Griffin, Matthew Winters, Robert Whitley, Amber Geddings and

Myrtice Guy.

Persons discharged during the same time period were: Mary Lindsey, Charles Cole, Billy Killingsworth, Lovie Hooks, James Marshall, Jimmie Duncan, Linda Ayers, Rosa Lee Tyson, Michael Fuller, Ellis Eddins, Matthew Winters, Edith Calhoun, Carolyn Lawrence, Anne Griffin, Rita Sondergard, Betty Spurlin and Amber Geddings.

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## The Elba Clipper

USPS 171-080  
is published every Thursday by The Elba Clipper,  
417 W. Buford St., Elba, Alabama 36623  
Publication Postage paid at Elba, Alabama 36623

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TELEPHONE (334) 897-2823 or fax (334) 897-3434  
Toll Free 1-888-216-8050 • e-mail clipper@alaweb.com

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## Changes in store for Alabama Congressional Delegation

by Congressman Terry Everett  
(202) 225-2901

Come January, Alabama's congressional delegation in Washington will undergo changes not seen in a decade. New faces will appear and congressional district lines will shift. These changes will have a direct impact on Southeast Alabama.

Ten years ago, Alabama's seven congressional districts - each roughly containing 600,000 people - underwent remapping as mandated by the 1990 census and the U.S. Justice Department's requirement of the creation of a minority district in the state.

The Second Congressional District grew to incorporate DeKalb and Autauga counties, while losing portions of west Montgomery city and west Montgomery County. 1992 was also a time of transition, as three of Alabama's seven Members of Congress departed Washington.

The 2000 census has reflected more growth in Alabama's population and thus created the need to redraw Alabama's congressional district lines to accommodate this shift. As a result, the seven districts will change again effective January 2003. Here in Southeast Alabama, residents of the Montgomery area will be directly affected by a new set of district lines.

Much of east Montgomery (beyond the Eastern and Southern bypasses) which was formerly in the Second District, now moves into the new Third District. Much of west Montgomery which was part of the old Seventh District will become part of the new Second District. In the end, Montgomery will continue to be represented by two congressmen, but the district numbers, lines, and names of the congressmen will be different for many residents.

Also, to the south of Montgomery, Lowndes County (formerly part of the old Seventh District) will join the new Second District. The new Second, which I am privileged to represent, will also contain all of Autauga, Barbour, Bullock, Butler, Coffee, Conecuh, Covington,

Crenshaw, Dale, Elmore, Geneva, Henry, Houston, and Pike counties.

New Congressional district lines are not the only changes in store for Alabama. Three new faces emerge in Washington in January to replace departing members Sonny Callahan, Bob Riley, and Earl Hilliard, incoming freshmen Jo Bonner, Mike Rogers, and Artur Davis will take their places in the U.S. House. Montgomery city and county will notice these changes as Rogers of the new Third District becomes congressman for the far eastern portion of the city and county as well as for parts of downtown Montgomery. Both Bonner's First District and Davis's Seventh District will continue to border the Second District.

Personally, I am looking forward to working with the new members of the delegation come January. Actually, I've already begun working with the members-elect as they seek ways not only to better represent their new constituents in the 108th Congress, but also to coordinate efforts with the rest of Alabama's congressmen for the good of the state.

While Alabama's congressional representation of seven House members is small by the standards of states like California, New York, Florida, or Texas, which have many dozens of congressmen, it is a well known fact that our delegation is unique in its ability and desire to work together to accomplish more for our state. I am impressed with the caliber and commitment of our incoming congressmen from Alabama and am confident that they will continue to uphold this time-honored tradition of putting Alabama first.

## Elba Police Report

The Elba Police Department, beginning Monday, Nov. 25, 2002, investigated the following incidents: one theft of property, three for domestic violence, two for assault, one harassment, one sexual misconduct, one criminal mischief, one menacing and one damage to property.

The following arrests were made: one for domestic violence, one for assault and one for failure to appear.

Traffic citations issued during the week were as follows: seven for speeding, four for no insurance, one for an expired tag, two

for driving with a suspended driver's license, five for no proof of insurance, one for violation of the seat belt law, one for attempting to elude, one for running a red light and one for no registration.

Daily activity highlights for the week were as follows: MONDAY, NOVEMBER 25 - River stage - 6.41 feet (6:22 a.m.); Minor two-vehicle accident reported at Eracer's Corner (1:40 p.m.); Routine activity.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 26 - River stage - 6.33 feet (6:26 a.m.); Minor accident reported at Elba General Hospital near the emergency room (9:59 a.m.); Routine activity.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 27 - River stage - 6.28 feet (6:30 a.m.); Loud and excessive music reported on Caroline St. (10:27 p.m.).

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 28 - River stage - 6.22 feet (6:10 a.m.); Coffee County EMS dispatched to an accident (vehicle vs. pedestrian) on County Rd. 231 (5:58 p.m.).

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 29 - Elba Fire Department dispatched to Elba General Hospital (3:42 a.m.); River stage - 6.15 feet (7:38 a.m.); Alarm activated at 641 Jackson St. (8:24 a.m.); Loud music reported on Martin Luther King Dr. (7:41 p.m.).

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 30 - River stage - 6.13 feet (6:31 a.m.); Alarm activated at 2557 Taylor Mill Rd. (7:12 a.m.); Alarm activated at Kelly's Bar-B-Que (9:28 a.m.); Routine activity.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1 - Coffee County EMS dispatched to an accident on County Rd. 228 (2:52 a.m.); River stage - 6.12 feet (7:08 a.m.); Prowler reported on Smith Ave. (3:50 p.m.); Burglary reported at 2100 County Rd. 400 (6:29 p.m.).

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## Obituaries

## EDGAR MILTON WARR

Dr. Edgar Milton Warr, age 87, of 967 North Claxton Ave., Elba, Ala., died Dec. 1, 2002 at his residence.

Dr. Warr graduated from Troy State University with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Education followed by a Masters of Science Degree in Administration from Auburn University. Dr. Warr continued his education at Southern College of Optometry in Memphis, TN, where he received his OD Degree. Dr. Warr served his country with a field artillery unit during WWII. He taught school for a number of years with the Henry County school system where he later became principal. In 1950, Dr. Warr opened his optometry practice in Elba, where he practiced until 1981, being named Optometrist of the Year in 1961. Dr. Warr was a member of the First Baptist Church of Elba where he served as a Lifetime Deacon. He also served as Chairman of the Restoration Committee after the 1990 flood.

Funeral services were held Dec. 2, 2002 at First Baptist Church of Elba with Rev. Mart Gray and Rev. Andrew Smith officiating. Burial followed in Evergreen Cemetery of Elba with Hayes Funeral Home directing.

Survivors include his wife, Irma Warr, Elba; two daughters and sons-in-law: Sara and Kenneth Strong, Elba; Janet and Paul King, Troy; six grandchildren and four grandsons-in-law: Emily and Beau Rowland, Orlando, Fla.; Elena Strong, Elizabeth Strong, Susan and Blair Smith, all of Birmingham; Catherine and Todd Watson, Evergreen, Amy and John Hall, McDonough, Ga.; one grandson: Robert King, Atlanta, Ga.; one great-granddaughter: Chandler Smith, Birmingham; two great-grandchildren: Clarkson Smith, Birmingham; Todd Watson Jr., Evergreen.

YANCEY PARKER  
Mr. Yancey Parker, age 88, of Enterprise, Ala., died Nov. 27, 2002 at Medical Center Enterprise in Enterprise, Ala.

Funeral services were held Nov. 30, 2002 at First United Methodist Church of Enterprise with Rev. Walker Epps officiating. Burial followed in Meadowlawn Cemetery with Seary Funeral Home directing.

Survivors include his wife, Evelyn Parker, Enterprise; one daughter and son-in-law: Melissa and Addison Paul, Enterprise; a sister and brother-in-law: Frances and Oliver Kingsley, Ozark; two sisters-in-law: Dorothy Parker and Mildred Parker, both of Ozark; other sisters-in-law and brothers-in-law include Whigham and Inogene Mixson, Ozark; Kathryn and Bill Piper, Dothan, Dr. Andrew and Sara Jane Mixson, Raleigh, N.C.; and Sara Mixson, Ozark; a number of nieces, nephews and cousins also survive.

JAMES DANIEL MADDOX  
James Daniel (Danny) Maddox, age 67, of Daleville, died Nov. 27, 2002, in Flowers Hospital after an extended illness.

Funeral services were held Nov. 30, 2002, at 2 p.m. from the Daleville Baptist Church, with Rev. James Kilpatrick officiating. Burial followed in the Meadowlawn Cemetery with Patterson-Sorrells Funeral Home directing.

Survivors include his wife, Jennie Mathis, Shiloh Mosier and Alan Maddox.

Memorials may be made to Coffee County Gideons, P.O. Box 310173, Enterprise, or Wiregrass Hospice, P.O. Box 311103, Enterprise.

RICHARD MCKINLEY MILLER  
Richard McKinley (Dick) Miller, age 78, long-time resident of Enterprise, died Nov. 30, 2002, at Medical Center Enterprise.

Funeral services were held Dec. 3, 2002, at 2 p.m. at Seary Funeral Home Chapel, with Minister Keith Ellis officiating. Burial followed in Meadowlawn Cemetery with Seary Funeral Home directing.

Mr. Miller was a Navy veteran of WWII; he was preceded in death by his first wife, Eva Nell Miller.

Survivors include his wife; Maryann Miller, Enterprise; six daughters and four sons-in-law: Eva Tice, Mary Ann Hall, India and Larry Hussey, all of Enterprise; Kathy and Douglas Ingram, Brundidge; Linda and Donald Page, Richmond Hill, Ga.; Jennie and Andy Jenkins, New Brockton; 5 sons and daughters-in-law: Alan and Johnnie Miller, Vernon, Fla.; Ben and Teresa Pritchett, Arton; Russell and Tonya Cymbala, Ozark; Mike and Wanda Pritchett, Enterprise; Ricky and Christi Miller, Birmingham; one sister and brother-in-law: Jeanne and Bill Cassell, Greenville, Ohio; 33 grandchildren, 24 great-grandchildren.

Memorials may be made to Operation Santa Claus in Enterprise.

JAMES EDWARD WYROSICK  
Mr. James (Billy) Edward Wyrosick, age 60, of Elba, died Dec. 2, 2002, at Mizell Memorial Hospital, Opp.

Funeral services were held Dec. 4, 2002, at 2 p.m. at Wyatt Funeral Home Chapel, with Rev. Sam Totten officiating. Burial followed in New Home Cemetery, Elba, with Wyatt Funeral Home directing.

Mr. Wyrosick was born in Coffee County, and was a farmer.

Survivors include his wife: Frankie Wyrosick, Elba; two sons: Jamie Wyrosick, Troy, and Steve Wyrosick, Elba; his mother: Annie Pearl Wyrosick, Elba; two sisters and brothers-in-law: Louise and Hoyt Farns and Jean and Fred Hodge, all of Kinston.

Line-up for the parade will be held in a different location this year. All entries should report to the New Brockton Elementary School parking lot (Hwy. 122 E. Johns St.) by 3 p.m. on Dec. 7.

Again, the parade will begin at 4:30 p.m. and will travel up Railroad St. and make its way back to Johns St. to return to the school parking lot.

Everyone is invited to come out and help New Brockton celebrate "Christmas Around Town."

Kimberly Light  
Asst. Coffee County Administrator

12/5 chg.

Christmas Parade  
set for Saturday  
in New Brockton

The Town of New Brockton will hold its second annual Christmas parade on Saturday, Dec. 7, at 4:30 p.m., as part of its "Christmas Around Town" activities.

Line-up for the parade will be held in a different location this year. All entries should report to the New Brockton Elementary School parking lot (Hwy. 122 E. Johns St.) by 3 p.m. on Dec. 7.

Again, the parade will begin at 4:30 p.m. and will travel up Railroad St. and make its way back to Johns St. to return to the school parking lot.

Everyone is invited to come out and help New Brockton celebrate "Christmas Around Town."

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LICENSES & PERMITS	48,791.05	2,455.50				24,888.00	77,134.55
INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVENUE	573,719.24	2,909,435.11					3,483,154.35
CHARGES FOR SERVICE	986,119.42	27,455.51			2,808,381.33	25,126.63	4,073,882.89
MISCELLANEOUS	350,724.58	967,132.21	2,300.58		276,762.05	32,208.59	1,629,128.01
TOTAL REVENUES	4,317,920.09	5,301,907.44	2,300.58	0.00	3,085,143.38	82,232.22	12,787,594.71
EXPENDITURES							
GENERAL GOVERNMENT	2,439,111.60	398,706.20				39,569.48	2,877,387.28
PUBLIC SAFETY	1,864,748.11	26,452.84				24,888.00	1,916,088.95
HIGHWAYS AND ROADS		2,795,788.70					2,795,788.70
SANITATION	62,323.88				2,117,030.93		2,117,030.93
HEALTH	78,180.70	150,605.78					228,786.48
PUBLIC WELFARE	6,000.00						6,000.00
CULTURE AND RECREATION	61,337.00						61,337.00
EDUCATION	239,015.38	694,736.03			2,082.00		935,833.41
CAPITAL OUTLAY							
DEBT SERVICE		278,683.03	387,455.70		14,652.49		680,791.22
PRINCIPAL RETIREMENT		81,467.82	439,822.93		117,072.17		638,362.92
INTEREST		2,000.00	9,150.21		1,542.72		10,692.93
FEEES AND OTHER CHARGES	217,448.00	70,000.00					287,448.00
INTERGOVERNMENTAL							
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	4,988,164.47	4,488,440.40	836,428.84	0.00	2,252,380.31	64,457.48	12,619,871.50
EXCESS REVENUE OVER (UNDER) EXPENDITURES	(651,144.38)	802,567.04	(834,128.26)	0.00	832,763.07	17,765.74	167,823.21
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)							
BOND PROCEEDS		257,492.86	227,829.00	682,263.30	1,028,726.00		2,196,311.16
OPERATING TRANSFERS IN	853,136.45	506,984.38	843,396.34		206,221.02		2,209,738.19
OPERATING TRANSFERS OUT	(408,755.99)	(1,534,761.18)			(266,221.02)		(2,209,738.19)
TOTAL OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)	244,380.46	(770,283.94)	1,071,225.24	682,263.30	988,726.00	0.00	2,196,311.16
EXCESS REVENUE AND OTHER FINANCING SOURCES OVER (UNDER) OTHER EXPENDITURES AND OTHER FINANCING USES	(406,763.92)	32,283.10	237,097.08	682,263.30	1,801,489.07	17,765.74	2,364,134.37
FUND BALANCE (DEFICIT) BEGINNING	972,822.71	1,980,312.31	49,952.76	69,459.94	2,005,583.96	55,371.79	5,133,503.47
FUND BALANCE - ENDING	566,058.79	2,012,595.41	287,049.84	751,723.24	3,807,073.03	73,137.53	7,497,637.84

Detailed statements of individual fund revenue and expenditures are available for public inspection at the County Commission Office during regular hours Monday-Friday. The totals are captioned "Memorandum Only" to indicate that they are presented merely to aid financial analysis. Information in this statement does not present the County's financial position or results of operations in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles; neither is data comparable to a consolidation of county funds; that is interfund elimination has not been used in totaling these figures. These figures represent unaudited data.

## STATEMENT OF INDEBTEDNESS AS OF SEPTEMBER 30, 2002

General Obligation Warrants (Health Department Addition)	36,328
General Obligation Warrants (DHR)	0
General Obligation Warrants (Refunding Issue)	2,165,000
\$.04 Gasoline Tax Anticipation Warrants	650,000
\$.05 Gasoline Tax Anticipation Warrants	225,000
Loans Payable to Banks	306,840
2002 Construction Warrants	2,015,000
Landfill Warrants	0
Lease Purchase Equipment	1,008,915
Landfill Lease Purchase Equipment	738,299
Amounts in Escrow	287,050
Total Indebtedness	7,432,432

Kimberly Light

Kimberly Light  
Asst. Coffee County Administrator







# SCHOOLS



## Tiger Tales

Editor:  
Sheena Flowers

## Co-Op Spotlight

by Shawna Hill

The week's spotlight focuses on senior Samantha Williams. She is the 17-year-old daughter of Sharon and Steve Williams.

Samantha works at Roger's Beauty Shop and is a member of the Rocky Head Missionary Baptist Church. She is involved in numerous activities at EHS such as varsity softball, the line, Sr. Beta, VICA, EHS Chorus and Mu Alpha Theta. In her spare time, Miss Williams likes to sing, dance and hang out with friends.

Congratulations to Samantha!



Samantha Williams

## EHS band begins concert season

by Kimberly Farris

Marching band has ended, and the Elba High School Band is preparing for its annual Christmas Concert which is scheduled to be held Tuesday, Dec. 10.

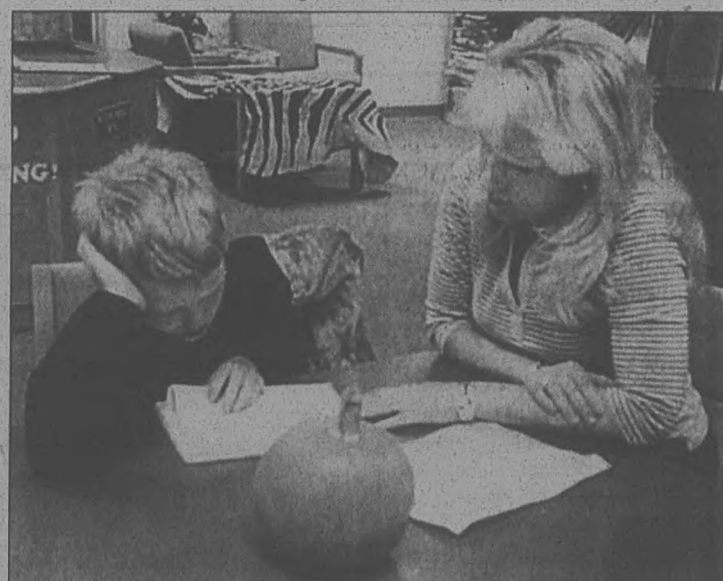
The band officially began the concert season the week after the last football game. This year, Mr. Jeff Ellis, band director, decided to start the season by holding chair try-outs. Each student was given the opportunity

to audition for chair placement in their section.

After chair try-outs were completed, the band started working on several songs trying to find the best music to play for the Christmas Concert. They've played through over 15 songs including "Precious Lord, Take My Hand" and "What Child Is This?". After approximately one month of intense preparation the EHS band is looking forward to performing for the people of Elba.

## Elba Elementary School library holds open house

On Nov. 4 an open house was held at the E.E.S. Library for parents and students. On this evening, 28 guests visited the library and enjoyed a time for leisure reading. Many parents and grand parents read to and with their children and then assisted them in taking Accelerated Reading tests. Many parents expressed their gratitude for being able to see what it was like to take an AR test so they would know in the future what was expected of the children. Several teachers took time to come to the open house and assist parents. Door prizes were given and sponsored by Cook Chevrolet.



## Enrichment classes write Letters to the Editor

by Sheena Flowers

During the week of Nov. 18, Mrs. Calhoun, the Elba High School librarian and media specialist, had her enrichment classes (seventh grade) to write letters to the editor (me). Their

assignment was to write three things they actually like about high school...hope it wasn't too hard!

Hey Sheena!  
How are you doing? Well, I am doing fine, as usual. I am going to tell you what I like about Elba High. First, I like all my friends here and the short order lunch lines. Most of all, I like the rules.

Cassandra Flowers

Dear Editor Sheena:

I like the food, the easy work and the teachers. I like having a longer time for break. I like the activities like the pep rally that we have every Friday during football season.

Tiffany Kelley

Dear Editor (Sheena):

One reason why I like Elba High School is because of break. The reason is because you get to talk to your friends for 20 minutes since you didn't get to talk to them for 96 minutes during first block. They second reason I like EHS is because of lunch. Lunch is my

## EHS Ambassadors speak to Elba Rotary Club members

On Nov. 19, Mrs. Weeks and four of her EHS Ambassadors attended the Rotary Club as their meeting's guest speakers. After a wonderful luncheon, Mrs. Weeks introduced the four students she brought with her (Trent Farris, Sheena Flowers, Courtney Pelham and Kristy Ward), and these students gave a brief speech about Ambassadors.

They told of the qualifications necessary to become an ambassador, the satisfaction received from their experiences as an ambassador and a description of what an EHS Ambassador does. The students who attended the meeting did a very good job and were congratulated by the Rotary Club members for their fantastic dedication to their school and community.

The EHS Ambassadors would like to thank the Rotary Club for having them as guests.

## EHS students support American Education Week

by Ayonna Procter

Seniors of Elba High School participated in writing public service announcements to promote American Education Week. The students had to include how Elba High School has prepared them for their future lives after high school. Heather Hays, Shawna Hill, and Trent Farris were three seniors whose announcements were broadcast over the radio.

Hells! My name is Heather Hays. I am a twelfth grade student at Elba High School. This week is American Education Week and this year's theme is "Making Public Schools Great for Every Child." I would like to take a few seconds to thank the administration, faculty, and staff of EHS. The Elba High Administration, including Superintendent Danny Weeks, does

an excellent job, providing a safe environment in which to learn. The faculty of Elba High School goes above and beyond their obligated responsibilities to ensure that students are prepared to enter college or the workforce. There is no doubt in my mind that the Elba City School System does indeed make public schools great for every child.

My name is Shawna Hill and I'm a senior from Elba High. The reason why I like school is because it's a place of opportunity. Education plays a major role in every day life. It encourages me to further my education, set goals, and accomplish my dreams. My ultimate dream for the future is to become an intelligent young woman and have the capability to provide for myself. I want to be able to see and offer things to the world. That's why I like school the best!

Hello, my name is Trent Farris, and I am a senior at Elba High School. Please join me in celebrat-



Pictured from left to right: Sheena Flowers, Courtney Pelham, Kristy Ward, Trent Farris and Mrs. Lynn Weeks (sponsor).

## Character Trait

## Character Trait

by Kaci Grantham

This week's character trait is patriotism. Patriotism is one defining factor in our country. Patriotism is shown in our schools as well as in our environment. For example, students and teachers at Elba City School's recite The Pledge of Allegiance every morning before class begins. After the Sept. 11 event, many citizens of the United States showed patriotism by coming together in remembrance of those who died. So no matter how small the act, everyone should show patriotism.

## Elba battles over alcohol

by Meredith English

This past month the city of Elba has been divided over one major issue...should we stay dry or go wet? I am sure more than a few of us do not understand, or do not even take the time to understand, another person's opinion opposite of our own. Although the city has already voted, and has gone wet, I hope to enlighten you on your fellow community member's reasons for voting as they did. A few points made by both sides were very well thought out and could sway a person's personal opinion on the matter.

A few of the residents of Elba have explained their reasoning for voting wet. A few of those reasons are because, simply, if we sold alcohol there are more economic possibilities, more business chains might want to establish here. One major point was that although this city was dry, people with the cars limits still drank. There is also the safety issue, drinking and driving, so to say, is a major health hazard. People would drive to either Enterprise, Friendship, or Opp to purchase alcoholic beverages and more often than not the driver would consume some of the alcohol he or she bought.

The people who voted to stay dry have pointed out why they voted that way. One reason I often heard was because it was a moral issue. Another point was that Elba was unique in being dry, and now that we have gone wet it gives the young adults and teenagers a green light to drink. Being dry made a statement to people who lived outside of Elba.

Many people have often used the Bible as a reason why they voted wet or dry. Different views on the biblical position on alcohol can be argued either way. Elba, wet or dry, will always be the quiet, little town we all call home.

## Basketball News

From Coach Weeks to the 7th and 8th boys basketball team: Congratulations to the seventh and eighth grade teams for their victories over Fleeta, Zion Chapel and New Brockton. Both teams have really worked hard this year and have really improved a great deal so far. (Picture not available for this group.)



From Coach Collins to ninth grade girls basketball team: Congratulations to the ninth grade girls basketball team for its 4-1 record so far. The team's latest victory was over Zion Chapel with a score 33-23. Fonda Thigpen and Ashleigh Waddell both scored 13 points to lead the Lady Tigers to victory. Also, a thanks to Yolanda Reynolds and Haleigh Duncan for all their help with managing the team.

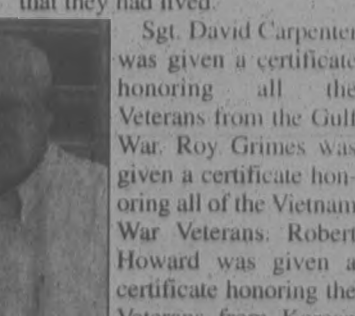
## EHS honors veterans with program

by Alex Benbow

The 2002 Veterans Program was filled with history about soldiers from Elba that fought in one of the major wars of the twentieth century. The EHS Concert Band played a number of patriotic songs commemorating the veterans from the Gulf War, Vietnam War, Korean War and World War II.

The program was opened by the EHS Concert Band playing America the Beautiful. Then Bart Barnes got up to give an opening speech for the ceremony. Next the flag was presented in a ceremony called Presenting the Flag. This was done by Jennifer Grissett and Ashton Grimes. They were dressed in their full Official FFA wear. They presented the flag left to right in front of the Veterans, while Deann Smith gave a speech on the history of our flag.

Then Lacy Carille said a prayer for the soldiers in combat and the Veterans that were there. The EHS Concert Band then played the Star Spangled Banner.



Sgt. David Carpenter was given a certificate honoring all the Veterans from the Gulf War. Roy Grimes was given a certificate honoring all of the Vietnam War Veterans. Robert Howard was given a certificate honoring the Veterans from Korean War. Charles Kennett was given a certificate honoring all of the World War II Veterans. And last but not least Mr. Joseph Hidalgo was presented with a certificate honoring all of the Veterans from all the prior wars.

While Mallory Allen told the history behind the music Taps, played by Mr. Ellis our band director, Bart Barnes led the Veterans down to a table with artifacts. Bart said a few more words to conclude the ceremony. The Veterans stayed down front after the ceremony for people to shake their hands, ask questions and take pictures.

# SCHOOLS



## First Nine Weeks Honor Roll

All A Honor Roll

Grade 6  
Kristen Karol Collins  
Victoria Anne Fortune  
Chelsea Marie Freeman  
Amber LaShae Grissett  
Janie Michele Hall  
Ethian Coley Mount  
Cecilia Casey Rushing  
Chana Leanne Smith  
Kyle Ray Tankersley  
Grade 7  
Brittany Elise Dismukes  
Jon Stephen Fuller  
Sheena Marie Hussey  
Brittany Joanna Layton  
Ava Tindal Long  
Grade 8  
Erica Danielle Lewis  
Jennifer Lynn Taylor  
Stephen Matthew Williams  
Grade 9  
Joshua Abel Childs  
Cortney Brooke Dykes  
Christopher Brett Fuller  
Lindsay Diane Leverett  
Dale Patrick Stinson, Jr.  
Grade 10  
Joshua Byron Smith  
Grade 12  
Nicole Dawn Paez  
Ashley Brooke Wombles

All A & B Honor Roll  
Grade 6  
Lindsey Leigh Amlong  
Carol Ann Banks  
Christopher Galtin Carnley  
Matthew Cory Carter  
Caitlin Dianne Grissett  
Andrew Stewart Little  
Tara Lorne Long  
Morgan Wayne Manual  
Cristen Lea Patterson  
Steven Andrew Pettry  
Brittany Rae Keuhlman  
Cassie Jo Strength  
Robby Lee Thrash  
Leana Jordan Vinson  
Justin Clay Winters  
Grade 7  
Brittany Nicole Cardwell  
Jessica Marie Carroll  
Cassandra Marie Cole

Kayla LeDean Crook  
Laurissa Karen Franklin  
Courtney Melissa Grant  
John Wayne Lambert  
Gage William Nalley  
Luther Dean Peters  
Rodney David Ross Pittman  
Kathy Nicole Register  
Clinton Luther Rhodes  
Rodrick Leon Rider Jr.  
Jonas Griswold Simmons  
Victoria Brooke Stinson  
Rebecca Danielle Thompson  
Travis Hunter Walden  
Caitlin Noel White  
Harry James White  
Grade 8  
Adam Lee Carter  
Joshua Todd Grant  
Rodney Eric Kinnard  
Epishe Grace Long  
Grade 9  
Lashonda Shonta Cole  
Jacquelyn Michelle Cowart  
Donna Lee Flowers  
Keri Lin Flowers  
Jeffery Allen Hobart  
Keri Lynn Hobbs  
Rosanna Johnson  
Brittany Shae Manning  
Byron McWaters  
Melanie Christine Perry  
Haley Diane Wambles  
Grade 10  
Meta Gatlin  
Roy King  
Kristen Rene McLendon  
Austin Kyle Smith  
Jonathan Michael Sneed  
Grade 11  
Jason Lee Danley  
Anna Catherine Miller  
Joshua Dean Richards  
Brittany Nicole Thompson  
Grade 12  
Tracy Nicole Banks  
Kala Nicole Bundrick  
Sammie Perry Cauthen  
Jonah Lyn Edmondson  
Adam Russell Faircloth  
Kimberly Gayle McClain  
Amanda Jean Perry  
James Jeddiah Simmons  
Ronnie Luke Smith

Make A Difference Day, NFLC, JDLC, and fund raising were the main items of business at the recent meeting of the Future Business Leaders of America.

Make A Difference Day will be the kick-off for the year-long project. Many plans have been made and the part of the plan that will be implemented on Make A Difference Day is a Multiplication Scavenger Hunt. Prizes have been bought, refreshments have been purchased, clues have been established, and math problems have been duplicated under the leadership of Committee Chairperson Anna Miller.

## ZC's FBLA members discuss fund raising options at meeting



FBLA member Roy King looks over fund raising sales pamphlets.

## Marathon Multiplication Scavenger Hunt begins on Make A Difference Day, Oct. 26

A "Marathon Multiplication Scavenger Hunt" was the theme of the first annual Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) Make A Difference Day. The project was conducted as a part of the Alabama State Chapter's "Loving and Literacy" project.

This state project is a year-long, ongoing community service project. Zion Chapel's goal is to target multiplication skills of elementary students—in particular, fifth graders.

The kick-off day for Zion Chapel's project was October 26, the national kick-off day for USAs Make A Difference Day. Participants began their scav-

enger project by answering multiplication problems to get a clue for the next stop in their hunt. Here they answered some more multiplication problems to get another clue. This continued through nine different stops in the hunt.

The winner was Dillon Davis who answered each problem correctly. Hillary Davis was the first runner-up. She only missed one problem. Each were given a prize that included a multiplication game. All participants were given a bag of candy and pencils.

Anna Miller was the chairperson for this project and she was assisted by several other members.

## SUPPORT REBEL BASKETBALL DURING THE 2002-03 SEASON!

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### THE FOUR WAY TEST

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- First - Is it the TRUTH?
- Second - Is it FAIR to all concerned?
- Third - Will it build GOOD WILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?
- Fourth - Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?

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**ELBA ROTARY CLUB**

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EDUCATION  
AND  
YOUR LOCAL  
SCHOOLS

SUPPORT  
OUR YOUTH,  
EDUCATION  
AND  
YOUR LOCAL  
SCHOOLS



## County residents receive 2002 Farm City awards



**CONAGRA BROILER PRODUCER OF THE YEAR...**The Bessie Martin Farm received this award after producing 579,100 birds in the last fiscal year. The farm is managed by Loflin Martin, son of Bessie and Sport Martin. Loflin and Bessie Martin accepted the award from representatives of ConAgra Foods.



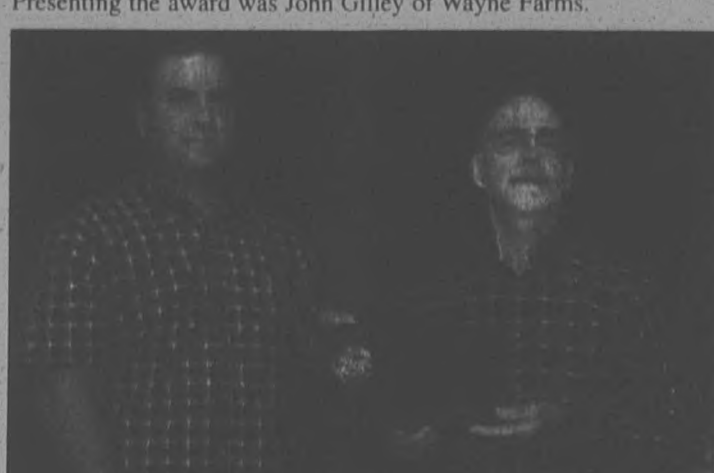
**WAYNE FARMS HEN GROWER OF THE YEAR...**Smith Poultry Farm received this award. Their poultry farm is located near the Ino community, and they produce approximately five million hatching eggs yearly. Accepting the award were Mike and Kristy Smith along with their son, Jason, who works full time at the farm. Presenting the award was John Gilley of Wayne Farms.



**WAYNE FARMS PULLET GROWER OF THE YEAR...**The award was presented to Wiley and Ann Vann, owners of Shore Creek Farm. The Vann Farm is located in the Victoria community, and they started their poultry business in 1998. Since that time, the farm has received several Wayne Farm awards. John Gilley of Wayne Farms presented the award.



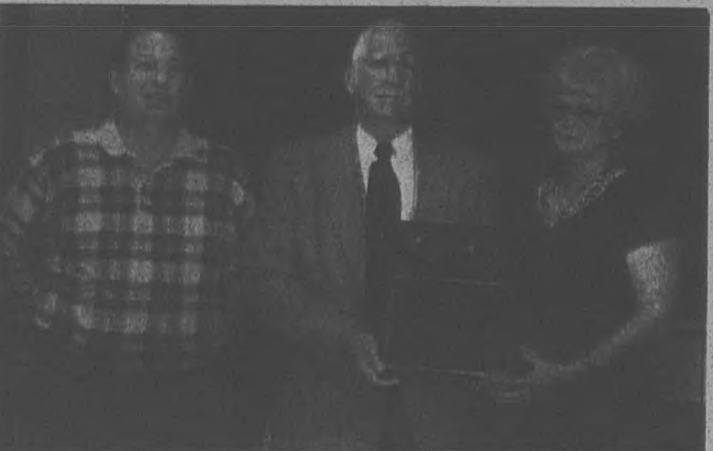
**WAYNE FARMS BROILER GROWER OF THE YEAR...**Jimmy and Joyce Lashley received this award. The Lashley family has been in the poultry business since 1973, and today, has a capacity of growing 107,000 per grow out. Jimmy and Joyce along with one of their grandsons accepted the award from their Wayne Farms representative, Cory Wiggins.



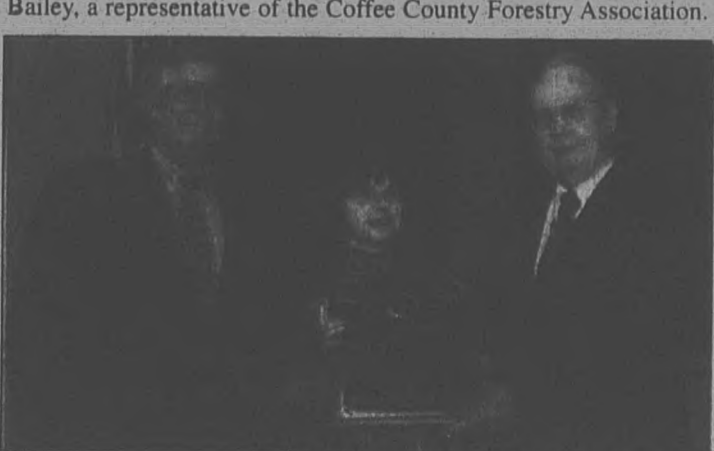
**FORESTRY AWARD...**This award went to the Mike Stephenson farm which consists of 221 acres in the Fairview community. The land use is divided between forestry and row crops with 167 acres being in timber. Stephenson (right) accepted the award from Mike Bailey, a representative of the Coffee County Forestry Association.



**OUTSTANDING CONSERVATION FARMER...**For his care and concern for protecting land and water resources while producing food and fiber, the Coffee County Soil and Water Conservation District presented this award to Mike Hines (left) of the Clintonville community. The award was presented by Travis Carley.



**PEANUT AWARD 250 PLUS ACRE CATEGORY...**James Snell of New Brockton was named recipient of this award after growing 532.3 acres of peanuts, which averaged 3,480 pounds per acre in 2001. Snell along with his wife, Gayle, accepted the award which was sponsored by Eugene Chamblis of the Session's Peanut Company.



**LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION...**Richard (Dick) Cullen, right, received one of four livestock production awards. Cullen joined the Cullen family farm in 1988 and has since then accepted several awards. He accepted the award from Max and Kathy Bozeman.



**COTTON AWARD...**Kenneth Baker of the Curtis community received this award after growing 135 acres of cotton averaging 776 pounds per acre. Baker began farming cotton in 1992 and now farms 200 to 250 acres each year. Baker and his wife, Ann, accepted the award from Dow Clark.

## Elba Chamber of Commerce

### Calendar of Events and Meetings

#### December 2002

Dec. 3 - Elba Rotary Club's Christmas Party  
Dec. 6 - Elba Economic Development Breakfast  
Dec. 8 - Elba United Methodist Church Youth Musical  
Dec. 9 - Elba City Council  
Dec. 10 - Elba Rotary Club  
Dec. 11 - Azalea Garden Club; Elba First Baptist Church Children's Christmas Musical  
Dec. 14 - Westside Baptist Church to hold Adult Choir Cantata  
Dec. 15 - Elba's Tour of Homes; Westside Baptist Church to hold Adult Choir Cantata; Elba United Methodist Church Children's Musical  
Dec. 17 - Elba Rotary Club; New Seasons Study Club  
Dec. 19 - Elba Chamber of Commerce board meeting  
Dec. 22 - Elba United Methodist Church Adult

Choir Cantata; Whitewater Baptist Church Christmas Musical  
Dec. 24 - Christmas Eve; Elba First Baptist Church - Communion Service; Elba United Methodist Church "Come As You Are" Communion Service  
Dec. 25 - Christmas Day  
Dec. 31 - New Year's Eve

#### January 2003

Jan. 1 - New Year's Day  
Jan. 7 - Elba Rotary Club  
Jan. 8 - Azalea Garden Club  
Jan. 13 - Elba City Council  
Jan. 14 - Elba Rotary Club  
Jan. 15 - Elba Economic Development board meeting  
Jan. 16 - Elba Chamber of Commerce board meeting  
Jan. 20 - Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday  
Jan. 21 - Elba Rotary Club; New Seasons Study Club meeting  
Jan. 23 - Elba DRA meeting

Jan. 27 - Elba City Council meeting  
Jan. 28 - Elba Rotary Club  
Jan. 31 - Job Shadowing Day

#### February 2003

Feb. 2 - Groundhog Day  
Feb. 4 - Elba Rotary Club meeting  
Feb. 5 - Azalea Garden Club meeting  
Feb. 10 - Elba City Council meeting  
Feb. 11 - Elba Rotary Club meeting  
Feb. 14 - Valentine's Day  
Feb. 17 - President's Day  
Feb. 18 - Elba Rotary Club; New Seasons Study Club meeting  
Feb. 20 - Elba Chamber of Commerce board meeting  
Feb. 24 - Elba City Council meeting  
Feb. 25 - Elba Rotary Club

Contact the Elba Chamber of Commerce to have your event added to the calendar!!



**PEANUT AWARD 50-250 ACRE CATEGORY...**Joe Powell Jr. received a livestock production award for his work with his family farm. In its third generation, Powell has diversified the farm to include cotton, peanuts, corn, a produce operation "The Pea Patch" and a stocker cattle operation. He received the award from Max and Kathy Bozeman.



**LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION...**Goy, Henry and Clint Patterson also received a livestock production award for the work they do at their family farm. They farm 1,600 plus acres which include 600 acres of peanuts, 800 acres of cotton, 150 acres of corn, 50 acres of grass hay, 25 acres of soybeans plus the 350 head of stocker yearlings. Goy and Henry Patterson accepted the award from Max and Kathy Bozeman.



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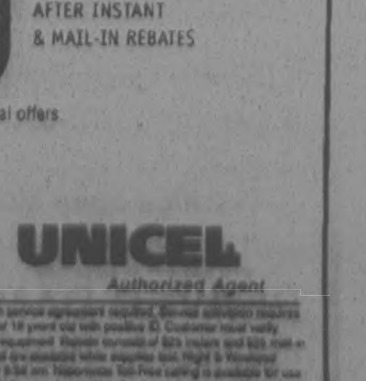
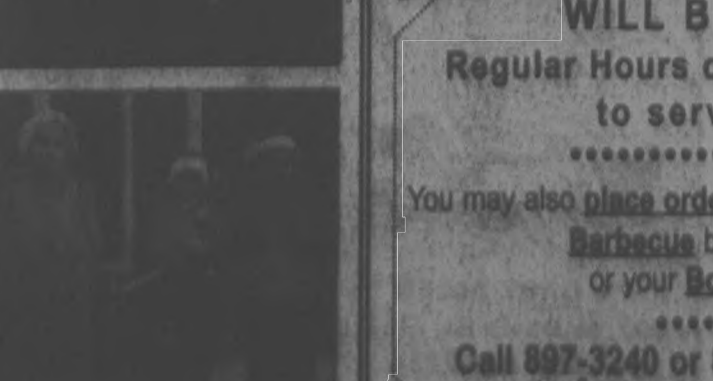
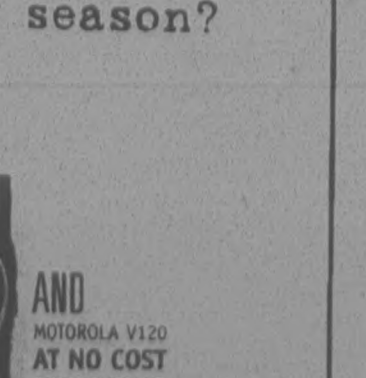
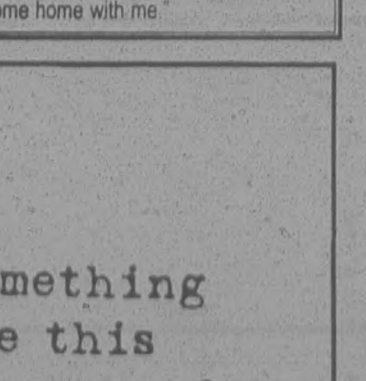
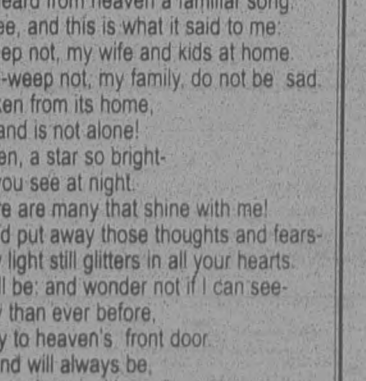
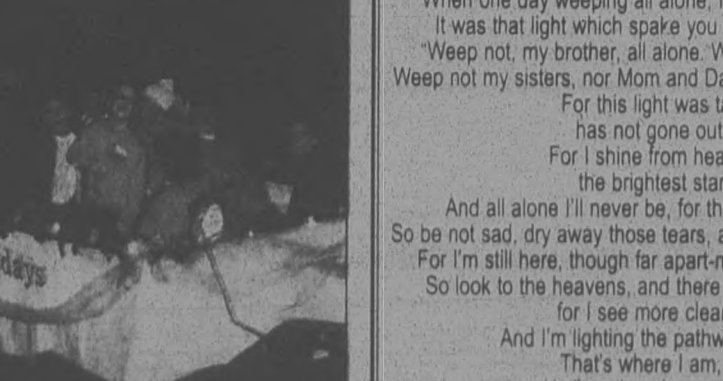
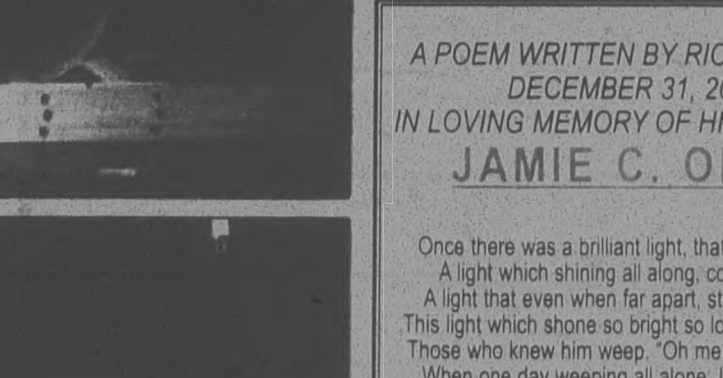
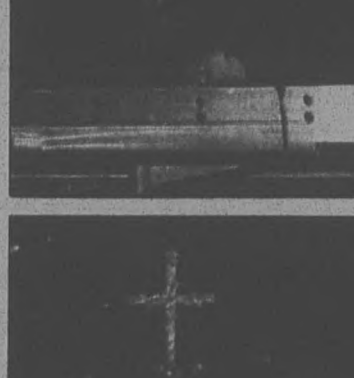


**LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION...**Goy, Henry and Clint Patterson also received a livestock production award for the work they do at their family farm. They farm 1,600 plus acres which include 600 acres of peanuts, 800 acres of cotton, 150 acres of corn, 50 acres of grass hay, 25 acres of soybeans plus the 350 head of stocker yearlings. Goy and Henry Patterson accepted the award from Max and Kathy Bozeman.



**2002 FARM OF DISTINCTION...**This prestigious award was presented by Steve Wyrudnick (left) and Steven Bozeman (right) to the Canley Farms of Kinston. The Canley Farming Operation consists of Kenneth, Larry and Terry Canley and their families. They are the third generation of farmers in the Canley Family. The Canley Farms consists of 1,700 acres with 800 acres of peanuts, 1,200 acres of cotton, 200 acres of corn, 13 poultry houses and 400 head of brood cows. This farming operation is truly a family effort as three of their sons work full time in the operation with the others pitching in as time permits. The three brothers accepted the award alongside their family.

## Elba holds annual Christmas Festival and Parade



### A POEM WRITTEN BY RICHIE ODOM DECEMBER 31, 2001 IN LOVING MEMORY OF HIS BROTHER JAMIE C. ODOM

Once there was a brilliant light, that shone so luminously day and night,  
A light which shined all along, could easily find the pathway home.  
A light that even when far apart, still shines like glitter in all our hearts.  
This light which shone so bright so long, was one day taken from its home.  
Those who knew him weep. "Oh me, without this light, how can we see?"  
When one day weeping all alone, I heard from heaven a familiar song.  
It was that light which spoke you see, and this is what it said to me:  
"Weep not, my brother, all alone. Weep not, my wife and kids at home.  
Weep not my sisters, nor Mom and Dad-weep not, my family, do not be sad.  
For this light was taken from its home,  
has not gone out, and is not alone!  
For I shine from heaven, a star so bright,  
the brightest star you see at night.  
And all alone I'll never be, for there are many that shine with me!  
So be not sad, dry away those tears, and put away those thoughts and fears.  
For I'm still here, though far apart-my light still glitters in all your hearts.  
So look to the heavens, and there I'll be, and wonder not if I can see  
for I see more clearly than ever before.  
And I'm lighting the pathway to heaven's front door.  
That's where I am, and will always be.  
Until my loved ones come home with me."

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## SPORTS

Views from....

## THE PRESSBOX

By Ricky Mularz, Sports Editor

Sometimes I think our dog enjoys Thanksgiving dinner more than the family! Last week the Mularz family sat down at home to a big Thanksgiving dinner that included a turkey and all the trimmings. Well, the dog got to eat first since he got the bones after Dad had carved the bird, and he also ate last over the weekend as he got all the leftovers. I know it isn't good to feed leftovers to animals, but after taking a look at the dog's belly late Saturday night it was easy to see he enjoyed the feast.

## SORTING THROUGH THE SPORTS NEWS...

\*\*\* The Elba Tiger basketball team will finally hit the court this week for a trio of games against some of its biggest rivals. The Tigers opened the season on Tuesday over in Opp, and then will host Enterprise on Thursday and travel over to New Brockton on Saturday. Elba has been highly successful over the past two years and will have to be ready this season each and every night it takes the court as many of its victims in years past try to gain a measure of revenge. The guess here is that it may take the Tigers a few games to work out the kinks, but after that look for the Tigers to continue their winning ways and get ready for another exciting season.

\*\*\* The Elba Lady Tigers lost their opener in last week's New Brockton Thanksgiving Tournament, but played well on both ends of the court against a talented team from G.W. Long and appear ready for another winning season. The Lady Tigers have a trio of ball-handlers and outside shooters that could play for just about any team around, and once they get settled inside they should be just as strong in the paint. I know the number of players is down and the schedule is tough, but something tells me these girls will grab more than share of wins as the season rolls along.

\*\*\* Kinston High School hosted its annual Thanksgiving Tournament last week with the Samson Tigers and the Kinston Lady Bulldogs taking home the trophy titles. Samson had to battle all four quarters against both Luverne and Georgiana to claim its crown, while the Lady Bulldogs surprised Georgiana and Arton to keep the girls' crown at home. The Kinston tournament may not feature many of the top teams in the area, but it does include teams that need early-season games and has quickly become one of the most competitive events around.

\*\*\* The New Brockton Thanksgiving Tournament included four games a day for three days and once again filled the gym for all three days of action. The tourney was started years ago and was co-sponsored by New Brockton and Kinston, but over the years the two county schools split and each went its own way. This year's tournament in New Brockton was fun to watch and was well received by all the teams in attendance.

\*\*\* I watched the Alabama win over Hawaii last weekend and can say without a doubt that if I was a college coach I would have to pass on a trip to the islands. Hawaii changed sides of the field to let the Alabama players stay in the hot sun as long as possible, and Coach June Jones who is about every call the entire game and left Coach June Jones who is about every call the entire game and left a little doubt that he was used to getting the calls at his high school. A couple of calls against the Crimson Tide were a little questionable while Hawaii was flagged only once or twice the entire game, despite what appeared to be a habit of holding Bama's defensive linemen. If all the Alabama officials wanted was a chance to let the players take a good trip, why not take them to New York and let 'em line up against Rutgers. That would be a vacation on and off the field!

\*\*\* A newspaper article about Ronald McKinnon crossed my desk last week and the theme of the article was McKinnon's love of older cars. McKinnon stated that a 1975 Impala was his "show car," while a 1938 Packard was his "Sunday car." The Arizona Cardinal linebacker, and Elba High alum, also said that while new cars were nice, he preferred the "older cars with basic, straight engines that you can fix a lot easier." I see Ronald added every time he makes it back to Alabama, but I have yet to see him drive anything but a new sports utility vehicle filled with those new computer gadgets he dislikes so much.

\*\*\* In closing...the high school football championships will be held this week in Birmingham, and for anyone that has never made a trip to the Super Six, I would highly recommend the event. I went last year to the 5A finals and will admit that even though I didn't know much about either team it was quite an experience. Oh yea, Ye Ole Polish Prognosticator dropped by over the weekend still munching on a drum stick and smiled when he said this week's picks were his final predictions of the season. The local guesspert hit on 9 of 12 picks last week to move his yearly totals to 360-76, and here are his picks this week at the state finals... (1A) Clay County 14 Autaugaaville 7, (2A) Southern Choctaw 22 Lineville 16, (3A) Colbert County 17 TR Miller 14, (4A) UMS-Wright 10 North Jackson 8, (5A) Homewood 33 Russellville 31, (6A) Hoover 24 Jeff Davis 14.

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## At New Brockton tournament

## Elba Lady Tigers drop season opener 42-41

The Elba Lady Tigers tipped off their basketball season last week in the New Brockton Thanksgiving Tournament and made an early exit after being defeated by the G.W. Long Lady Rebels 42-41, in opening round action.

The loss left the Lady Tigers with an 0-1 record, while the Lady Rebels improved to 3-0 with the win.

G.W. Long came out looking to shoot the three-pointer and did just that as the Lady Rebels connected on a pair of early bombs from behind the arc to grab a 6-0 lead with 5:31 remaining in the opening stanza. Elba cut the lead to 6-2 with 5:16 left, the stanza, on a jumper by Shay Thigpen, only to see the Lady Rebels connect again from long distance as G.W. Long opened up a 9-2 advantage with 4:54 remaining.

Elba's Ayonna Proctor and Ashley Gibson hit on three of five free-throw chances midway through the quarter as the Lady Tigers pulled within 9-5, but G.W. Long hit its fourth three-pointer of the opening quarter with 4:09 left and at the end of the stanza the Lady Tigers found themselves on the short end of a 12-7 score.

The Lady Rebels opened the second quarter with another long three-pointer to up their lead to 15-7, but this time Elba's LaGina Mack answered with a bucket from behind the arc, and after baskets inside by Mack and Shawna Hill, the Lady Tigers were within 17-14 with 5:46 left in the half.

G.W. Long connected on two three-pointers to regain command at 23-14 with 2:38 remaining, and then added its eighth three-pointer of the half with 1:14 on the clock to take its biggest lead of the night at 26-16. The Lady Tigers were down big, but brought the Elba fans to the edge in the closing minute as Ayonna Proctor drilled two long three-pointers over a span of only 23-seconds as the Lady Tigers pulled within 26-22 at halftime.

Elba closed to within 28-25 with 6:58 remaining in the third quarter on a three-pointer by Shay Thigpen. However, the Lady Tigers failed to score again for almost three-minutes

## Elba Tigers host 6A Enterprise Thursday in home opener

The Elba Tigers will continue a busy opening week of action on the basketball court tonight (Thursday) when they host the Enterprise Wildcats at the Tiger gym.

The Tigers tipped off the season on Tuesday night at Opp and will conclude, the opening week's action Saturday night at New Brockton, while next

"We have had a long time to get ready for the season," said Elba's Coach Karl Bledsoe, "and the players really need to get on the court against an opponent and see what they can do. We did get off to a late start, but we will make up for it in the coming weeks and have almost a non-stop schedule right up until the first of the year. This week we will tangle with two cross-county rivals in Enterprise and New Brockton, while next

## Applications now being evaluated for 2003 Ten Star Summer basketball camps

Applications are now being evaluated for the Ten Star All-Star Summer Basketball Camps. The camps are by invitation only and are for boys and girls ages 10-19. Past participants include Michael Jordan, Tim Duncan, Vince Carter, Jerry Stackhouse, Grant Hill and

**HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL CALENDAR**

Thursday, December 5  
Enterprise at Elba (4:30) B-VG-VB

Saturday, December 7  
Elba at New Brockton (4:30) B-VG-VB

Tuesday, December 10  
Elba at Samson (4:30) B-VG-VB

Zion Chapel at New Brockton (4:30) B-VG-VB



Elba Lady Tiger LaGina Mack (32) fires up a three-pointer while teammate Ayonna Proctor (14) and two G.W. Long defenders watch. The Lady Tigers dropped a 42-41 decision to the Lady Rebels last week in their season opener.

and G.W. Long took advantage of the scoring drought to regain command at 35-25 with 4:14 left in the stanza.

Elba's Danae Ware scored from inside and added a free-throw with 4:00 remaining to stop the Lady Tiger drought, and LaGina Mack scored on a put back with 1:38 left as Elba stayed alive and cut the G.W. Long lead to 35-30 heading into their feet in the closing minute.

Ayonna Proctor drilled two long three-pointers over a span of only 23-seconds as the Lady Tigers pulled within 26-22 at halftime.

Elba closed to within 28-25 with 6:58 remaining in the third quarter on a three-pointer by Shay Thigpen. However, the Lady Tigers failed to score again for almost three-minutes

back on top 42-41, and when a last-second shot from half court missed its mark, the Lady Rebels had the wild win.

Ayonna Proctor and Shay Thigpen both scored 12 points to lead Elba, while Vicki Windham scored 15 points on five three-pointers to lead G.W. Long and Ashley Wright added 13.

L 12 14 9 7 - 42  
E 7 15 8 11 - 41

G.W. Long (42): S. Newman 12, Wright 13, Windham 15, A. Newman 2.

Elba (41): Proctor 12, Thigpen 12, Mack 8, Hill 2, Ware 5, Gibson 2.

## ELBA TIGERS 2002-2003 BASKETBALL SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent	Site	Time
Dec. 5	Enterprise	Home	4:30
Dec. 7	New Brockton	Away	4:30
Dec. 10	Samson	Away	4:30
Dec. 12	Brantley (VG)	Home	5:00
Dec. 12-14	Andalusia Tournament	Andalusia	
Dec. 17	Zion Chapel	Home	4:30
Dec. 19-20	Z.C. Tournament (VG)	Zion Chapel	
Dec. 19	Brantley Home (VB)	6:00	
Dec. 26-30	Dothan Progress	Dothan	TBA
Jan. 3	Georgiana	Away	5:00
Jan. 7	Enterprise	Away	6:00
Jan. 10	Abbeville	GWCC	5:00
Jan. 14	New Brockton	Home	4:30
Jan. 16	Straughn	Away	4:30
Jan. 17	Luverne	Home	4:30
Jan. 21	Straughn	Home	4:30
Jan. 24	Abbeville	Home	5:00
Jan. 27	Georgiana	Home	4:30
Jan. 28	Zion Chapel	Away	4:30
Jan. 31	Opp	Home	4:30
Feb. 4	Luverne	Away	4:30

(B GAMES START AT 4:30)

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## SPORTS

## Gets consolation win over Luverne

## Kinston Bulldogs grab first win

The Kinston Bulldogs claimed their first win of the young basketball season Friday night by rolling past the Luverne Tigers 59-42, in the consolation game of the Kinston Thanksgiving Tournament.

The win gave the Bulldogs a 1-1 record, while Luverne slipped to 0-2 with the loss.

Kinston jumped out to a quick 2-0 lead on a short jumper by Jeremy Driver, but the Tigers from Crenshaw County hung tough throughout the opening

stanza and pulled into a 10-10 tie with 1:40 remaining on a basket by Brandon Green. The Bulldogs regained the lead at 11-10 later in the quarter on a free-throw by Matthew Melnis and carried a 15-12 lead into the second quarter when Jeremy Driver hit both ends of a two-shot trip to the line with 3:11 remaining in the opening quarter.

Luverne closed the gap to 19-17 with 5:01 remaining in the second quarter on a Michael

Burnett lay-up. However, Kinston closed the quarter with an 11-2 run that gave the Bulldogs a big 30-20 halftime bulge. Jim Bedsole sparked the late surge that gave the Bulldogs their biggest lead of the half, while J.T. Wiggins capped the rally with a late basket off a Luverne turnover.

J.T. Wiggins scored two early baskets in the third quarter as Kinston upped its advantage to 34-20, while a lay-up and a three-pointer by Lee Whigham sparked a Bulldog surge midway through the stanza that gave Kinston a 39-22 lead with 4:07 left in the quarter.

Luverne scored six straight points to cut the Bulldog lead to 39-28 with 2:14 remaining in the quarter, but the Bulldogs again answered the Tiger challenge and scored the final four points of the stanza to regain command at 43-28.

Kinston's lead grew to 49-32 with 5:54 remaining in the fourth quarter on a short jumper by Jason Melnis, and the Bulldogs connected on six of ten free-throw opportunities over the final three minutes to hold on and claim the 59-42 win.

Kinston, which connected on 20 of 35 free-throws in the win, was led in scoring by Jeremy Driver with 21 points, while Lee Whigham added 12 and J.T. Wiggins scored 11. Chris Bagents scored 10 points to lead Luverne.

K 15 15 13 16 - 59  
L 12 8 8 14 - 42

Kinston (59): Whigham 12, Brantley 5, Bedsole 6, J. Melnis 2, Reeves 1, M. Melnis 1, Wiggins 11, Driver 21.

Luverne (42): Malone 9, Green 9, Rutledge 6, Burnett 3, Parks 2, Shepard 3, Bagents 10.

**Zion Chapel Athletic Club will meet at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 12, at the schoolhouse. All parents of student athletes are encouraged to attend.**

## Roundball Roundup

## Kinston Bulldogs fall late to Georgiana 62-49

The Kinston Bulldogs hit only one of twenty shots in the fourth quarter as the Georgiana Panthers defeated the Bulldogs 62-49, in the opening round of the Kinston Thanksgiving Tournament. The Bulldogs trailed only 46-45 after three quarters, but were outscored 16-4 over the final eight minutes and suffered the loss. Jeremy Driver scored 18 points and J.T. Wiggins added 14 to lead (0-4) Kinston, while LaJuan Lee scored 22 points for the (1-0) Panthers.

## New Brockton dumps W.S. Neal 62-58

The New Brockton Gamecocks connected on 5 of 8 free-throws

over the final minute of play to hold on and defeat the W.S. Neal Eagles 62-58, in the opening round of the New Brockton Thanksgiving Tournament. The late free-throws helped the Gamecocks pull away from a 57-57 tie and claim the exciting win. Jonathan Hart scored 17 points to lead (2-0) New Brockton, while Travis Slawson added 14 and Donnell Foster scored 11.

## Lady Gamecocks roll past W.S. Neal 60-39

The New Brockton Lady Gamecocks made it look easy last week by rolling past the W.S. Neal Lady Eagles 60-39, in the opening round of the New Brockton Thanksgiving Tournament. Renita Lawson scored 23 points to lead the (2-0) Lady Gamecocks, while Rena Donaldson added 19 and Maressa Lowman scored 11.

## Zion Chapel falls hard to Straughn 79-41

The Zion Chapel Rebels made an early exit from the New



KINSTON LADY BULLDOGS...won the 2002 Kinston Thanksgiving Tournament last week with wins over Georgiana and Arton. Pictured are (kneeling, l-r) Candace Patterson, Mindy Wise, Amber McKinney, Brittany Hunko, Amber McCall, (standing, l-r) Bridget Marlowe, Meagan King, Casey Mack, Samantha Wambles, Elizabeth Farris and Ramsi Smith.

## Lady Bulldogs keep tournament title at home with two big wins

The Kinston Lady Bulldogs came into last week's Kinston Thanksgiving Basketball Tournament on Friday night with an exciting 49-43 win over the Arton Lady Purple Cats. The Lady Bulldogs stretched their lead to 26-22 heading into the final stanza and pulled out to a 35-27 lead with 1:53 remaining, only to see the Lady Panthers rally and cut the lead to 35-31.

Brittany Hunko connected on a free-throw with 35 left to up the Kinston lead to 36-31, and Meagan King later hit two free-throws as the Lady Bulldogs held on for the 38-31 win.

Ramsi Smith scored 10 points to lead Kinston, while Samantha Wambles added 9. Brittany Hunko 7, Elizabeth Farris 5 and Meagan King 4.

KINSTON 49  
ARITON 43

The Kinston Lady Bulldogs

opening stanza, but used a sticky defense to keep Georgiana off the scoreboard and by the end of the half had sneaked ahead 12-11. The Lady Bulldogs stretched their lead to 26-22 heading into the final stanza and pulled out to a 35-27 lead with 1:53 remaining, only to see the Lady Cats cut the lead to 22-16 by the end of the half. Arton continued its comeback in the third quarter and caught Kinston at 29-29 heading into the fourth quarter. However, the Lady Bulldogs regained command late in the game and poured in 20 fourth quarter points to pull away and claim the title 49-43.

Ramsi Smith scored 20 points and Samantha Wambles added 14 to lead Kinston, while Brittany Hunko scored 7. Bridget Marlowe 6 and Meagan King 2. Baxter scored 17, and Liprot added 15 for Arton.

KINSTON 49  
ARITON 43

The Kinston Lady Bulldogs

Brockton Thanksgiving Tournament last week as they fell to opening round action to the Straughn Tigers 79-41. Jonah Edmondson scored 16 points and Michael Rayburn added 12 to lead the (0-3) Rebels, while Garrett Windham scored 12 points to lead (2-1) Straughn.

## New Brockton rallies past Zion Chapel 66-49

The New Brockton Gamecocks rallied in the second half to defeat the Zion Chapel Rebels 66-49, at Zion Chapel. The Rebels owned a 16-15 lead after one quarter, but saw the Gamecocks rally to pull ahead 34-22 by the end of the half and then coasted in with the win. Rishawn Foster scored 14 points to lead New Brockton, while LaNorris Smith added 9 and Travis Slawson scored 8. Michael Rayburn scored 16 points and Sam Wambles added 10 for the Rebels.

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### YARD SALES

**BIG YARD SALE** - SAT. DEC. 7th. 8:00 TO 2:00 HWY. 84 BETWEEN ELBA & NEW BROCKTON (at the Old Store) Stove, Furn., New Bath Tub, New Sinks, Clothes, Too Much To Mention. 897-1072. 12-5-1p

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**1991 CHEV BLAZIER** check it out - priced at only **\$2,995<sup>00</sup>**




**1999 BUICK REGAL LS** - leather - loaded - extra clean - great buy - **\$8,195<sup>00</sup>**




**1990 PONTIAC BONNEVILLE** - AT-6 - only **\$1,895<sup>00</sup>**




**1990 FORD BRONCO** - Eddie Bauer - sharp - great truck for the hunter **\$6,195<sup>00</sup>**




**1996 NISSAN ALTAMA** - AT-4 - great for gas mileage - only **\$2,895<sup>00</sup>**




**1994 CHEV BLAZER LT** - loaded - AT-6 - only **\$3,395<sup>00</sup>**



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**2002 VW BEETLE** - AT - leather - sunroof only 14,000 miles - like new - only **\$15,599<sup>00</sup>**



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# The Elba Clipper

Volume 106, Number 26

50 Cents

Elba, Alabama

Thursday, December 12, 2002

1 Section, 16 Pages Plus 3 Adv. Inserts

## City of Elba passes ordinance controlling the legal sale of alcoholic beverages

by Ferrin Cox, Publisher

The Elba City Council took a break last Monday evening to comply with the wishes of a majority of Elba voters when it rescinded the local ordinance that bans the sale of alcohol in the City of Elba.

At the same meeting the council adopted an extensive ordinance allowing the sale of and at the same time regulating the sale of alcoholic beverages. The new ordinance sets guidelines to control both on premise and off-premise sales. The cost of business licenses for anyone wanting to sell alcohol is also spelled out in this new ordinance.

Mayor James Grimes said he and the City Attorney reviewed similar ordinances from several towns and tried to pick the better parts from each city's ordinance.

He added that they could make any necessary changes as needed once the city gets into working with the new ordinance.

A distance of 175 feet from the main entrance of any church, school, day care, funeral home, playground or public recreation facility is required for an establishment for beer or wine for off-premise retail sale.

The distance is 500 feet from the same above mentioned places for off-premise sale of alcoholic beverages other than beer and wine.

Hours of sale for all alcoholic beverages are from 6:00 a.m. until 2:00 a.m., except there are no legal sales on Sundays. No license is allowed to offer curb service sales of any alcoholic beverages.

Alcoholic beverages sold for off-premise consumption must

be contained in a bag in order to conceal the bottles, cans, carton or container.

There is a section in the new ordinance which prohibits nudity in establishments dealing in alcoholic beverages.

Monthly bills totaling \$20,751.20 were approved for payment. This included \$2,532.64 for election supplies on the wet-dry election; \$1,874.47 on vehicle and equipment repair; \$495.51 for asphalt mix; \$7,857.30 for two police car cameras and \$895.00 for a police car radar.

Police Chief R. W. Whitworth reported that Dispatcher June Harrison is retiring.

City Clerk Wayne Grantham told council members that the street resurfacing project in Morrow Village is on schedule in spite of the rainy weather.

## Humanity builds the dream of one Elba family

by Linda Hodge, Editor

Christmas is just around the corner, and it seemed only fitting Sunday, Dec. 8, that Habitat for Humanity of Coffee County held a dedication ceremony in honor of the Olean Smith Family home.

Construction has been underway for nearly a year, but Sunday afternoon outside the recently finished home Smith received one of the biggest Christmas presents she has ever gotten: the keys to her new home. This presentation came just one day shy of the one year anniversary of the groundbreaking ceremony for the home.

"Dear friends, we have gathered together to seek God's blessing upon this home which by the grace of God and human labor has been made ready for this family," said Billy Cotter, president of Habitat for

Humanity of Coffee County. "The home is not only a dwelling but a symbol to us of God's love manifested through the efforts of many people and the family that will make this house a home."

Time and time again the mission of Habitat for Humanity has been stated to be the elimination of sub-standard housing in the world one house at a time, and it provides an opportunity for someone to become a homeowner when they otherwise would not be able to do so.

Smith, a single-parent grandmother raising two of her grandchildren, was chosen as the recipient of the home following a very extensive application and screening process.

"Habitat for Humanity International has set before us a vision and a model to bring hope to others," Cotter said. "In spite of difficulties, we kept before us this vision that has been completed in this home today."

To be successful in their mission, Habitat for Humanity board members will admit they rely strongly on the community for donations of money and labor. On Sunday, these board members had nothing but praise for those who have helped make the dream of the Olean Smith home become a reality.

Cotter especially offered thanks to the City of Elba for its help with the process especially the donation of the land in which the home was built.

In regards to others who worked to complete this project, board member Beverly Inman said Habitat for Humanity of Coffee County thanks each and every one for the many hours of planning and sweat that has made this home possible.

"Because of your commitment, this family is given a hope for the future in a new way," Inman said. "Thank you for that hope!"

The Olean Smith home became the second home to be completed and dedicated Sunday by Habitat for Humanity of Coffee County. The first home was completed in Enterprise, and the board plans to continue its goal of



eliminating sub-standard housing in the area. However, each member wanted to take a few minutes Sunday to enjoy the happiness brought by the completion of the Smith home.

"We are grateful for the opportunity to be a part of this house, a gift from God," said board member Daniel Stephens.

After all, the mission of Habitat for Humanity of Coffee County is to build and renovate houses so there are decent homes in decent communities in which people can live and grow into all that God intended.

"You all have made me so happy," Smith said after receiving the keys to her home. "I'm so nervous right now and so blessed!"

Board member Jim Nichols presented Olean Smith with a book with pictures and other memories from the construction of the Habitat home.



Board member Jim Nichols presented Olean Smith with a book with pictures and other memories from the construction of the Habitat home.

## Local colleges set for mergers

Alabama College System Chancellor Roy W. Johnson is initiating a process that will merge Lurleen B. Wallace Junior College with MacArthur State Technical College and Enterprise State Junior College with the Ozark campus of Wallace Community College-Douglas.

The mergers will form Lurleen B. Wallace Community College and Enterprise-Ozark Community College, providing comprehensive community colleges that will be focal points for meeting the needs of students, businesses and industry. The mergers will consist of administrative consolidations to be followed by programmatic consolidations. The mergers will eliminate junior colleges from the Alabama College System, leaving only comprehensive community colleges and technical colleges.

"These mergers will result in three comprehensive community colleges begins today, Thursday, Dec. 12, when Johnson will ask the Alabama State Board of Education to approve Statements of Intent to Merge. The Statements outline the requirements and timelines for the mergers. Johnson will be holding at least two public meetings in the service areas of the affected colleges. Those meetings will be announced in advance.

The Alabama State Board of Education is required to render final approval to complete the mergers, but that will not happen until the administrative and programmatic consolidations are completed. Administrative mergers are expected to be completed by June 1, 2003, followed by programmatic mergers by Sept. 1, 2003.

The process of the two mergers begins today, Thursday, Dec. 12, when Johnson will ask the Alabama State Board of Education to approve Statements of Intent to Merge. The Statements outline the requirements and timelines for the mergers. Johnson will be holding at least two public meetings in the service areas of the affected colleges. Those meetings will be announced in advance.

## Area Happenings

USDA Rural Development Office in Ozark, Ala. will be closed today Thursday, Dec. 12, and will reopen at 8 a.m. on Friday, Dec. 13, 2002.

U.S. DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE'S FARM SERVICE AGENCY has announced that sign-up for the Livestock Compensation Program (LCP) for cattle, sheep, goats, and buffalo producers will end on Friday, Dec. 13. The LCP is now available to livestock producers in all 67 counties. Eligible livestock producers should apply for LCP benefits at the local Farm Service Agency (FSA) office by the deadline date.

THE ELBA DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION and the Human Resource Development Commission are in need of new and used toys, clothes and other items that will be used as gifts for needy families in the 2002 Operation Santa Claus campaign. Families in Elba and the surrounding area have registered at the two agencies, and items are needed that would help make this Christmas a Merry Christmas for the less fortunate in the area. The public is encouraged to donate items that are in working condition, or can be repaired for a nominal cost, or clothes that are in good condition. Cash donations should be made to Operation Santa Claus and mailed to the Elba Department of Parks and Recreation, 301 West Main Street, Elba, Alabama 36323. For more information call 897-3130.

## Coffee County receives grant for paving of County Road 359

by Linda Hodge, Editor

The Coffee County Commission conducted its business quickly Monday morning, Dec. 9, during its regular monthly meeting with only a few matters being brought up for discussion.

John Tallas, director of the Coffee County Emergency Management Agency (EMA), addressed the commission with an EMA update. Tallas covered several issues including a Department of Justice grant program, homeland security, a multi-jurisdictional mitigation plan and disaster warning systems.

In regards to the warning systems, Tallas had news of increased numbers for the county.

He said two new outdoor warning sirens have recently been erected with one in the community and one in the Battons community. According to Tallas, this brings the county's total to 18 warning sirens.

Tallas also said he has ordered two more sirens which will allow him to put one in the Tri-Communities area and one in the Goodman community.

As for 2003, he said plans are to order two more outdoor sirens to allow one to be placed in the Basin community and one in the Pine Level community.

The county's maintenance supervisor, Phil Rugg, informed commissioners of a continued problem with the drainage at the county jail in which he said someone is flushing bed sheets, towels, etc. into the system to stop it up.

Before moving on, Commissioner Jim Thompson confirmed with Tindell that he will have an additional crew working on other roads at the same time County Rd. 359 is being paved.

In other business, the commission:

\*Approved a credit application at the county landfill for GM Roofing Inc. of Coffee Springs.

\*Approved a motion to purchase an adjoining piece of property for the Senior Citizen Center in the Ino community. The motion was made by Stephens, and he said the people of the community will pay the county back for the purchase of the land.

The next meeting of the Coffee County Commission will be Monday, Dec. 23, at 9 a.m., in the community room of the county complex in New Brockton.

However, in anticipation of the grant monies, Tindell requested the commission approve a resolution authorizing the chairman to enter into agreement with Alabama Department of Transportation to allow the paving of County Rd. 359.

Westbrook made the motion to that effect with a second from Commissioner Bernest Brooks, and it passed by a unanimous vote.

Tindell also requested a resolution be approved to make County Rd. 359 a priority on the list of county roads to be paved contingent upon the 100 percent funding it will receive through the grant.

Westbrook made the motion for Tindell's request with a second from Commission chairman Robert Stephens, and it also passed by a unanimous vote.

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Before moving on, Commissioner Jim Thompson confirmed with Tindell that he will have an additional crew working on other roads at the same time County Rd. 359 is being paved.

In other business, the commission:

\*Approved a credit application at the county landfill for GM Roofing Inc. of Coffee Springs.

\*Approved a motion to purchase an adjoining piece of property for the Senior Citizen Center in the Ino community. The motion was made by Stephens, and he said the people of the community will pay the county back for the purchase of the land.

The next meeting of the Coffee County Commission will be Monday, Dec. 23, at 9 a.m., in the community room of the county complex in New Brockton.

However, in anticipation of the grant monies, Tindell requested the commission approve a resolution authorizing the chairman to enter into agreement with Alabama Department of Transportation to allow the paving of County Rd. 359.

Westbrook made the motion to that effect with a second from Commissioner Bernest Brooks, and it passed by a unanimous vote.

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